

Docket: NEC NE03P181
Preliminary Amendment

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--~~Fig. 3 is~~ Figs. 3(a) - 3(d) are a series of schematic cross-sectional views illustrating the first process flow in a single damascene method according to the present invention.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--~~Fig. 4 is~~ Figs. 4(a) - 4(d) are a series of schematic cross-sectional views illustrating the second process flow in the single damascene method according to the present invention.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--~~Fig. 5 is~~ Figs. 5(a) - 5(d) are a series of schematic cross-sectional views illustrating the third process flow in the single damascene method according to the present invention.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--~~Fig. 6 is~~ Figs. 6(a) - 6(c) are a series of schematic cross-sectional views illustrating the fourth process flow in the single damascene method according to the present invention.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--~~Fig. 8 is~~ Fig. 8(a) - 8(d) are a series of schematic cross-sectional views illustrating the first via hole first process flow in a dual damascene method according to the present invention.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--~~Fig. 9 is~~ Figs. 9(a) - 9(c) are a series of schematic cross-sectional views illustrating the second via hole first process flow in the dual damascene method according to the present invention.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--~~Fig. 10 is~~ Figs. 10(a) - 10(d) are a series of schematic cross-sectional views illustrating the first middle first process flow in a dual damascene method according to the present invention.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--~~Fig. 11 is~~ Figs. 11(a) - 11(d) are a series of schematic cross-sectional views illustrating the second middle first process flow in the dual damascene method according to the present invention.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--~~Fig. 12 is~~ Figs. 12(a) - 12(d) are a series of schematic cross-sectional views illustrating the first trench first process flow in a dual damascene method according to the present invention.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--~~Fig. 13 is~~ Figs. 13(a) - 13(d) are a series of schematic cross-sectional views illustrating the second trench first process flow in the dual damascene method according to the present invention.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--~~Fig. 15 is~~ Figs. 15(a) - 15(d) are a series of schematic cross-sectional views illustrating the first via hole first process flow in a conventional dual damascene method.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--~~Fig. 16 is~~ Figs. 16(a) - 16(c) are a series of schematic cross-sectional views illustrating the second via hole first process flow in the conventional dual damascene method.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--~~Figs. 8(a) to 9(c) is~~ Figs. 8(a) to 9(c) are a series of schematic cross-sectional views illustrating the steps of a manufacturing method of a damascene structure according to the via hole first method.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--~~Figs. 10(a) to 11(d) is~~ Figs. 10(a) to 11(d) are a series of schematic cross-sectional views illustrating the steps of a manufacturing method of a damascene structure according to the middle first method.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--~~Figs. 12(a) to 14(a) is~~ Figs. 12(a) to 14 are a series of schematic cross-sectional views illustrating the steps of a manufacturing method of a damascene structure according to the trench first method.--

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